

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: February 11, 2000

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on February 4, 2000

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Field Investigation Conducted, Ottawa Radiation Areas
Superfund Site (NPL-8 Conservation Area), Ottawa, Illinois**

On January 11, 2000, three members of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Remedial Enforcement Support Section (RESS) traveled to Ottawa, Illinois, to collect information about the demolition of the Radium Dial Building and the history of trash collection and disposal in Ottawa for the Ottawa Radiation Areas Superfund site in Ottawa, Illinois. A page by page search of Ottawa City Council Minutes dating from 1937 to 1969 was employed.

Frank Boenzi collected information about the demolition of the Radium Dial Building. He looked at old City demolition permits and discussed past and current procedures used by the City with the current City Engineer and Code Enforcement Officer. The individuals that contracted to demolish the Radium Dial Building and the transporter used to carry away the debris were previously known from prior investigations. He looked into the roles played by the past and current owners of the property. The RESS staff departed Ottawa on January 13, 2000.

Contact: Carl Cuffman (312-353-3191)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Compliance Inspections (Sector Initiative), Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, Indiana

On February 1 and 2, 2000, George Rancich and William Sandstrom, of the Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), conducted three Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) Compliance Inspections in Indiana. The facilities inspected were among those which had not responded to a compliance assistance mailing by the Indiana State Emergency Response Commission. These mailings were part of a joint six State/U.S. EPA Sector Initiative involving Standard Industrial Classification Codes 3471 (plating and polishing) and 3479 (metal coating and coloring).

The facilities inspected were Muncie Precision Hard Chrome, Muncie, Indiana; T & J Plating, Marion, Indiana; and, TJR, Inc., Kokomo, Indiana. Results of the inspections will be documented in reports to OCEPP enforcement personnel for review and follow-up action, as appropriate.

Contacts: George Rancich (312-886-6148)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Meeting, Illinois State Emergency Response Commission, Springfield, Illinois

On January 26, 2000, Cheryl McIntyre, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness & Prevention (OCEPP), attended an Illinois State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meeting. Various State agencies were in attendance such as the Department of Transportation, State Fire Marshall's Office, Attorney General's Office, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Public Health, Department of Agriculture and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The purpose of the meeting was to enlist support for an Advisory Board which would assist the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) by passing along hazardous materials information and making

recommendations. During the meeting, SERC Chairperson, Michael Chamness, identified several SERC initiatives currently underway that he felt would be Advisory Board priorities. These initiatives included: drafting an integrated rule for all hazardous materials spills, establishing a fee structure for facilities required to report under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) program, and restructuring the Cook County Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) and several predominantly rural LEPCs. The SERC plans to meet with the Advisory Board on a quarterly basis and the next meeting is scheduled for April.

Contact: Cheryl McIntyre (312-886-1964)

National Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Search Enhancement Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico

During the week of January 25-27, 2000, Evette Jones, Civil Investigator (CI) in the Remedial Enforcement Support Section (RESS), attended the National Potential Responsible Party (PRP) Search Enhancement Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Conference was opened with welcoming remarks by the Mayor of Albuquerque.

Topics addressed at the Conference were: the PRP Search Enhancement Team - It's Mission and Transition; Investigative and Interviewing Techniques; Bankruptcy; Ability to Pay and the ABEL Model; Corporate Liability; Information Sources (Secretary of State, Internet, etc.); and, Data Base Development for large Numbers of PRPs. Myron Knudson, Director, Superfund Division, Region 6, addressed the need to add more sites to the National Priorities Lists (NPL). Tom Kohl, Special Agent, Criminal Investigations Division (CID), Region 6, discussed the process of parallel proceedings (criminal and civil) and the need to develop and implement methodology for sharing information. Ms. Jones attended the CI Session which afforded participants the opportunity to meet as a group and discuss ways to enhance and develop CI skills. The need for consistency both in CI training and in the region-specific roles that they fill was emphasized.

Contact: Evette Jones (312-353-9483)

cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Tim Fields (OSWER)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers